IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, <u>operable in a computer system,</u> for analyzing of speech, the method <u>causing the computer system to execute</u> ~~comprising~~ the steps of:
  - inputting ~~of~~ a speech signal,
  - obtaining <u>a</u> ~~of the~~ first harmonic of the speech signal,
  - determining <u>a</u> ~~of the~~ phase-difference ($\Delta\varphi$) between the speech signal and the first harmonic <u>for centering a windowing function, wherein said phase difference is determined between a maximum of said speech signal and a phase zero of the first harmonic of the speech signal.</u>

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, the determination of the phase difference comprising the steps of:
  - determining [[the]] <u>a</u> location of [[a]] <u>said</u> maximum of the speech signal,
  - ~~determining the phase difference between the maximum and phase zero of the first harmonic of the speech signal~~.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, whereby the speech signal is a diphone signal.

4. (Currently amended) A method for synthesizing speech, the method, <u>operable in a computer system,</u> comprising the steps of:

–   selecting of windowed diphone samples, the diphone samples being windowed by a

window function being centered with respect to a phase angle which is determined <u>as</u>

~~by~~ a phase difference between a <u>maximum of said</u> speech signal and [[the]] <u>a zero</u>

<u>crossing of a</u> first harmonic of the speech signal, <u>and</u>

–   concatenating the selected windowed diphone samples.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, the speech signal being a diphone signal.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, the window function being a raised
cosine or a triangular window.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising inputting of
information being indicative of diphones and a pitch contour, the information forming the
basis for selecting of the windowed diphone samples.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, whereby the information is provided
from a language processing module of a text-to-speech system.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

–   inputting of speech,

–   windowing the speech by means of the window function to obtain the windowed

diphone samples.

10. (Currently amended) A computer program product which when loaded into a computer system causes the computer system to perform ~~for performing~~ a method in accordance with claim 1.

11. (Currently amended) A speech analysis device comprising:

–   means for inputting of a speech signal,

–   means for obtaining [[the]] a first harmonic of the speech signal,

–   means for determining [[the]] a phase difference ($\Delta\varphi$) between the speech signal and

the first harmonic for centering a window function, wherein said phase difference is

determined between a maximum of said speech signal and a phase zero (φ_0) of the

speech signal.

12. (Currently amended) The speech analysis device of claim 11, the means for determining the phase difference being adapted to determine:

[[a]]]] the maximum of the speech signal ~~and to determine~~

~~a phase zero (φ_0) of the speech signal in order to determine the phase~~

~~difference between the maximum of the speech signal and the phase zero.~~

13. (Previously presented) The speech analysis device of claim 11, wherein the speech signal is a diphone signal.

14. (Currently amended) A speech synthesis device comprising:

– means for selecting of windowed diphone samples, the diphone samples being

windowed by a window function being centered with respect to a phase angle which

is determined [[by]] as a phase difference between a speech signal and [[the]] a first

harmonic of the speech signal, , wherein said phase difference is determined between

a maximum of said speech signal and a phase zero of the first harmonic of the speech

signal

– means for concatenating the selected windowed diphone signals.

15. (original) The speech synthesis device of claim 14, wherein the speech signal is a

diphone signal.

16. (Previously presented) The speech synthesis device of claim 14 the window function

being a raised cosine or a triangular window.

17. (Previously presented) The speech synthesis device of claim 14 further comprising

means for inputting of information being indicative of diphones and a pitch contour, the

means for selecting the windowed diphones being adapted to perform the selection based

on the information.

18. (Currently amended) A text-to-speech system comprising:

– language processing means for providing of information being indicative of diphones

and a pitch contour,

– speech synthesis means comprising means for:

–   selecting of windowed diphone samples based on the

information, the diphone samples being windowed by a window function being

centered with respect to a phase angle which is determined [[by]] as a phase

difference between a maximum of said speech signal and a first harmonic of the

speech signal; and

–   means for concatenating the selected windowed diphone samples.

19. (original) The text-to-speech system of claim 18, whereby the window function is a

raised cosine or a triangular window.

20. (Currently amended) A speech processing system comprising:

–   means for inputting of a signal comprising natural speech signal,

–   means for windowing the natural speech signal by means of a window function being

centered with respect to a phase angle which is determined [[by]] as a phase

difference between a maximum of said speech signal and [[the]] a first harmonic of

the speech signal to provide windowed diphone samples,

–   means for processing of the windowed diphone samples, and

    means for concatenating the selected windowed diphone samples.